

Press Release



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
Leaders in the Law. Advocates for Justice.®

State Bar of Wisconsin announces election results

MADISON, Wis. (April 29, 2025)—Wisconsin attorney **Stephen W. Sawyer** was elected April 28 as the next president-elect of the State Bar of Wisconsin, beginning July 1, 2025. In July 2026, he will take over as State Bar president.

Sawyer is with Sawyer Law LLC in Stevens Point. "I am very honored and humbled to have been elected to serve the State Bar of Wisconsin as an officer," Sawyer said.

"These are challenging times for our profession and for the judicial branch of government. I will do my best to rise to those challenges and to build upon the proud tradition of excellence that has been the hallmark of our State Bar," he said.

[Learn more about Sawyer here.](#)

In Other State Bar Races:

—**Steven J. Krueger** was elected to a two-year term as secretary of the State Bar of Wisconsin, beginning July 1, 2025. [Learn more about Krueger here.](#)

—**Sarah Zylstra** was elected to a three-year term as a State Bar of Wisconsin representative to the Wisconsin Judicial Council beginning July 1, 2025. This is Zylstra's third term on the Council. [Learn more about Zylstra here.](#)

The Judicial Council is a 21-member body responsible for studying and making recommendations relating to court pleading, practice and procedure, as well as the administration and operation of the courts. The Council is comprised of judges, district attorneys, legislators and legislative staff, law school personnel, citizens, and three members of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Board of Governors Election Results

By district ([see the district map](#)), those elected to serve two-year terms beginning July 1 as district representatives on the State Bar Board of Governors are:

District 1

- [Hayley E. Johnson](#), Walworth County Corporation Counsel, Elkhorn

District 2

- [Christopher P. August](#), Assistant State Public Defender, Appellate Unit, Milwaukee
- [Karen Bauer](#), Milwaukee

-More-

- [Daniel J. Blinka](#), Godfrey & Kahn SC, Milwaukee
- [Scott F. Brown](#), Corporation Counsel, Milwaukee County
- [Monica Cail](#), Legal Action of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- [Jade K. Hall](#), Office of the State Public Defender, Milwaukee
- [Anna Muñoz](#), Senior Director of Legal Operations, Licensing, and Risk at Brookdale Senior Living Inc., Milwaukee

District 3

- [Angela Rust](#), von Briesen & Roper S.C., Neenah

District 5

- [Shari LePage Locante](#), Arndt, Buswell & Thorn S.C., Sparta

District 6

- [Erin E. Block](#), Dewitt LLP, Brookfield

District 7

- [Steven H. Thompson](#), Anderson O'Brien, LLP, Stevens Point

District 9

- [Richard Niess](#), Madison
- [Kathleen Pakes](#), Assigned Counsel Division Director and a Forensic Practice coordinator, Wisconsin Public Defender, Madison
- [Annabelle K. Vang](#), Kowalski Wilson & Vang, LLC, Madison

District 11

- [Courtney L. Graff](#), Schmiede, Graff & Koch Law Firm Ltd., Medford

District 13

- [Maria A. Penkwitz](#), Penkwitz Law Office, Port Washington

District 15

- [Elizabeth Stinebaugh](#), Legal Action of Wisconsin Inc., Racine

ABOUT THE STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the integrated professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 25,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit wisbar.org.

#

Photos attached:

Sawyer_Stephen_250X250

Krueger_Steve_250X250

Zylstra_Sarah_250X250

Contact: [Mike Wiltse](#), PR Manager, 608-250-6025